



Knight Letter

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA NUMBER 27 OCTOBER 1987

Four Summer Auctions Offer Carroll Material

Some of the most significant Lewis Carroll material to appear in years was offered in four auctions this past summer. Including Tenniel's original illustrations for *Through the Looking Glass* and an archive of Isa Bowman's letters, the auctions clearly indicated the tremendous interest in Carroll's work. Prices, both in New York and London, reflected this interest.

The Tenniel illustrations were from the collection of Sir Harold Hartley, and were originally exhibited in the Centenary in London in 1932. They comprise preliminary drawings, working sketches and signed proofs. Along with some other Carroll-related items, they were purchased by Biggs for £135.00, plus 10%, roughly equivalent to \$237,000. This sale was held at Christie on June 24th and included other Carroll material as well.

Important from another standpoint was the auction of July 23-24 held at Sotheby's London galleries. Letters Carroll wrote to Isa Bowman, most of which have been reprinted in her book,

The Story of Lewis Carroll and in Morton Cohen's collection, were sold at record-breaking prices. The famous "Glove and Kitten" letter led the group at close to \$6,000, while not far behind was the one to "My Lord Duke" which was bought at \$5300.00. A number of additional letters to Bowman and others also sold for substantial prices.

Two other auctions, one at Sotheby's New York on June 18th and the other at Sotheby's London on June 17-19 provided less spectacular but still significant lots. In New York, a presentation copy of the Leipzig German *Alice*, 1869, surprisingly did not meet the \$1800-2200 suggested reserve and was bought in, but the more spectacular first edition in French of *AIW*, inscribed by Carroll to Lorina Liddell, *Alice's* sister, was purchased for \$5500.00. In the London auction, collectors had a field day as there were a number of lots which went for quite reasonable prices, but the surprise of the day was an 1866 Appelton first of *AIW* which realized over \$3500. The expected price was \$1200.

PROFILE: Edward Guiliano, President, LCSNA



When Edward Guiliano joined the twenty-three other founding members of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America in Princeton, N.J. in January 1974, he was a Ph.D. candidate in Victorian literature. His fascination with Carroll and his art evolved through the academic world.

"I was somewhat terrified by the *Alice* books when I was a child" he explains, "and I don't think I read them in the full original until I was in high school. I was introduced to the logic books by a teacher when I was about twelve years old. Let's say I was intrigued, and it stuck. In high school I wrote a paper on Carroll's logic. Then things got serious, and all along academic lines. At Brown, the *Alice* books were required reading in one of my undergraduate courses and I wrote another paper. Ditto for a master's level course. By the time I was a Ph.D. candidate, I was still being confronted by Carroll and writing seminar papers about his work. That's also when I started publishing and meeting bands of

Spring Meeting in Baltimore Features Unusual Topics

The Enoch Pratt Library hosted the Spring meeting of the LCSNA, and interestingly enough, it was held in the Edgar Allan Poe Room. "Why is a raven like a writing desk?" the Mad Hatter asked Alice. The question was not answered then nor at the meeting, but both Carroll and Poe made ravens more popular than they had ever been.

The meeting was opened by the new president, Edward Guiliano who spoke about the six-volume edition of Lewis Carroll's pamphlets that the Society is working on. After a brief business

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OF BOOKS



& THINGS

In 1962, The Cleveland Public Library dedicated a Veronic Hutchinson Memorial Story-Tellers Corner in the Lewis Carroll Room. It reportedly contained Alice's own Birthday Book and other mementos of the Liddells.

Does anyone know if this room still exists, or what happened to the above?

Dr. Sandor Burstein reports the discovery of an unrecorded American issue of *Alice*. The format is similar to the "yellowbacks" that were so popular in the latter part of the 19th century. Here is the description:

Alice's/Adventures in Wonderland. / by / Lewis Carroll. / with forty-two illustrations / by / John Tenniel / Boston: / Lee and Shepard, Publishers. / New York: / Lee, Shepard, and Dillingham. / 1872.

The front and back cover paste-on has

a yellow background with red and black printing. Front and back endpapers are ads, as is the back paste-on. The spine is green cloth. Except for the placing of the contents page and the introductory poem, the text is identical with their 1869 edition. The printer is listed as University Press: Welch, Bigelow & Co. Cambridge.

Morton Cohen's next book will be *Lewis Carroll: Interviews and Recollections*. It's in press but probably will not be ready before next Spring. The book contains a wide sampling of recollections about Carroll by members of his family, Oxford colleagues and friends, child friends, illustrators of his books and a smattering of other people. The book will be published originally in England, at £27.50 and will be available in the US at a later date.

Gerard Manley Hopkins by G.F. Lahey, S.M., OUP 1930, contains several letters to Hopkins by Dean Liddon in which Liddon attempts to dissuade Hopkins from converting to Catholicism. Dr. Pusey also wrote to Hopkins to change his mind. The date was 1866. Did Carroll know Hopkins?

A most unusual edition of *Jabberwocky*, illustrated by Maryline Poole Adams, is mounted on a wooden click tablet toy (or Jacob's Ladder toy). On one side of the blocks is the poem. When flipped, the blocks turn over to reveal illustrations of creatures from the poem. 99 copies, from Poole Press, 1170 Keller Avenue, Berkely, CA 94708. Price \$65.

The University of California Press is opening a "Campaign for the Humanities". It offers contributors of \$100.00 or more a copy of Barry Moser's *Snark* – the same book which was a bonus to members in 1983.

The New Yorker of June 22 carried a lengthy poem entitled "The Pool of Tears" by Susan Prospero. The last stanza is as follows:

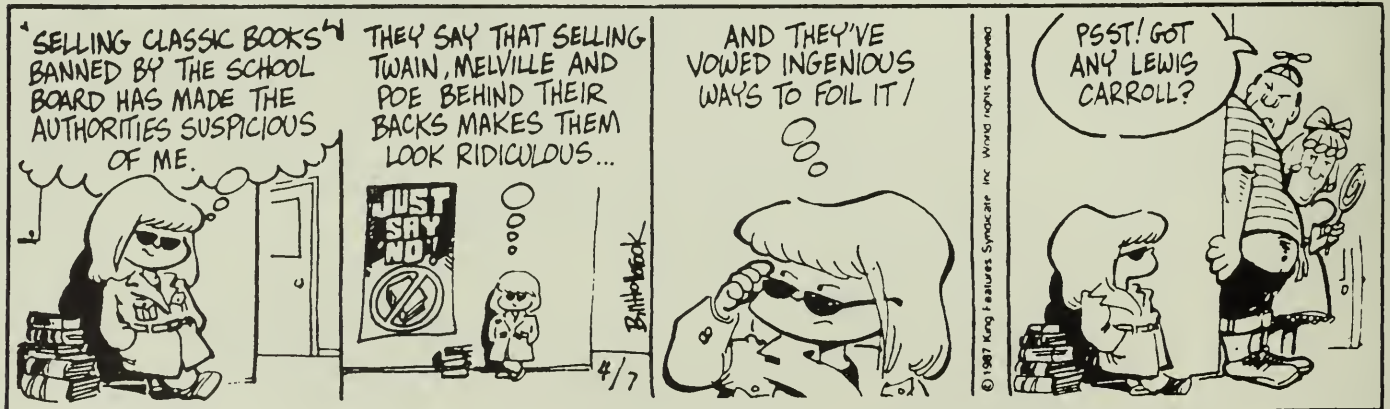
Oh, subliminal foragings,
the flattened grasses and the rush-bottomed chairs,
and the storybook open to the creatures of dreams,
the school in the sea and the never-ending study
of Mystery and Uglification and Grief and Laughing.
When Reverend Dodgson rowed Alice Liddell and her sisters
through dull weather from Folly Bridge to Godstow,
having left behind wire puzzles and safety pins
for little girls' dresses, a thrush stirred under
Alice's breastbone, though as the afternoon wore on,
and he turned to a tale of tumbling down a long tunnel,
she became petulant and withdrew from the others.
He spoke then of the Hatter and the March Hare and the riddle
at the tea party of a writing desk and a raven,
for he saw that the bird inside her had grown dark and sexual.

Martin Gardner reports that Clarkson N. Potter/Crown is bringing out a revised *Annotated Alice* . . . Dover is publishing a facsimile of *Sylvie and Bruno* with a new introduction by Gardner. Incidentally, the new *Annotated Alice* will contain the Wasp-in-the-Wig episode.

Did Tenniel goof? Sandor Burstein reports that a little girl asked him if Alice was right-handed. Then Tenniel drawings show her doing everything with her right hand. However, in TTLG, she does the same! Shouldn't she be left-handed in Looking-Glass Land?

ON THE FASTRACK BILL HOLBROOK

From the Washington Post, April 7, 1987



Lewis Carroll and The House of Macmillan

Recently published by Cambridge University Press in the United States, *Lewis Carroll and the House of Macmillan* is Morton Cohen's latest contribution to Carroll scholarship. Reading the introduction and its history of the founding of The House of Macmillan, one is intrigued not only by the scholarship of Dr. Cohen's work but by the fascinating story of Victorian publishing and its impact on the world of literature.

For thirty-five years, Dodgson and Macmillan continued a relationship that would be impossible in today's world. The letters reveal Dodgson's demands

and Macmillan's surprising concessions to almost everything he wanted. There is also an appendix containing excerpts from the Bookseller for 1883, criticising Dodgson for his position that Macmillan supply his books to booksellers at fixed prices, allowing lower than conventional profits for the bookseller.

Certainly our appreciation of Dodgson as a perfectionist is heightened by this revealing book. Until the very last letter to Macmillan, a month before Dodgson's death, he was concerned with using the proper paper and his printer, Clay, using the very best ink.

Profile

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lively Carrollians here and in England. I must confess, however, that I might not have attended that inaugural meeting of the Society at Princeton if I didn't have work on Browning to do there as well."

Throughout the Society's history, Dr. Guiliano has headed its publications committee. His editing of *Lewis Carroll Observed* (1976) helped gain credibility for the group, as has the series he helped launch of Carroll Studies, which included the first publication of "The Wasp-in-a-Wig" episode of *TTLG*. His writings on Carroll include several articles and lectures, the book *Lewis Carroll: An Annotated International Bibliography* (1979) and three additional edited volumes *Lewis Carroll: A Celebration* (1982), *Soaring with the Dodo* (1982), and *The Complete Illustrated Works of Lewis Carroll* (1982).

A professor of English at the New York Institute of Technology, he is active in several literary and professional societies, including serving as Vice President of the Browning Institute, the non-profit educational and cultural organization that owns and operates the Brownings' Florentine home, Casa Guidi. He is also widely known in Dickensian circles as the co-editor of the prestigious *Dickens Studies Annual: Essays on Victorian Fiction*, as a Dickens Collector, and as the co-author of *The Annotated Dickens* (1986).

Anyone who knows Edward, knows his extensive pursuits of fine food, wine and travel have led to many articles in national publications and earned him a wide reputation outside the literary and academic worlds. His wife, a native of France, shares these interests with him as well as a home in New York's Greenwich Village.

West Coast Chapter Meeting Features "A Garden Tour of Wonderland."

The annual meeting of the West Coast chapter of the LCSNA was held on Sunday afternoon, May 31, at the home of Sandor Burstein in San Francisco.

Horticulturist and featured speaker Bob Hornback took the members on a garden tour of Wonderland. The witty presentation led the members through the flora and fauna of the *Alice* books, as well as English Victorian flower gardens. Hornback spoke of the hallucinogenic properties of the mushroom and the "dream rushes" – that the dormouse was really a wombat and that there really is a species of rose bush that has both red and white flowers.

Spring Meeting *Continued from Page 1*

meeting, the first speaker, Dr. Anashia Plackis spoke on Carroll's political use of hieroglyphic symbolism, presenting him as a radically-committed Christian who resorted to an encoded exposition of an anti-authoritarian evaluation of the Church of England hierarchy.

"Pun, Parody and Paradox: Lewis Carroll's Mathematical Wit" was the subject of Professor Francine Abeles' talk. Dr. Abeles, who is editing the volume of Carroll's mathematical pamphlets for the Society, gave several examples from the pamphlets to illustrate how cleverly Carroll translated his thoughts and feelings about serious problems into puns, parodies and paradoxical expressions. Using illustrative slides, Dr. Abeles helped the audience follow her arguments.

The last speaker, Dr. Robert Katz, demonstrated what the works of Conan Doyle have in common with Lewis Carroll. A former chairman of The Six Napoleons, the Baltimore branch of the Baker Street Irregulars, Dr. Katz cited three similarities between Holmes and Carroll: Holmes supposedly attended Christ Church; two works of fiction – *Mad Hatter's Summer* and *The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton* were based on the same character, a real Victorian blackmailer named Howell; and that the character of Professor Moriarty was modeled on Lewis Carroll! On that provocative note, the meeting was adjourned.

Herbert Ahrend, Present at Alice's U.S. Visit

Herbert Ahrend, a member of the LCSNA, passed away in late September. Mr. Ahrend is the only known member who was at the ceremonies welcoming Alice Hargreaves to the United States in 1932. He was a student at Columbia University at the time, saw Alice when her ship arrived and also at the Lewis Carroll exhibition held at Columbia.

Number of LCSNA Books Still Available

A number of books issued by the LCSNA are still available. They are:

1. Lewis Carroll—An Annotated Bibliography for 1974 ... \$10.00
3. The Russian Journal II ... \$20.00
4. Lewis Carroll & the Kitchens ... \$20.00
5. Lewis Carroll's Library ... \$20.00
8. Feeding the Mind ... \$20.00
9. Lewis Carroll at Texas ... \$25.00

Also—Lewis Carroll and Alice. 1832-1982 ... \$10.00

Books may be ordered from The Secretary, LCSNA, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Check should accompany order.

from our far-flung



correspondents

Alice continues to intrigue playwrights and playgoers, as attested to by the number of releases, reviews and newspaper accounts we receive from our far-flung correspondents. The story's adaptability as a vehicle for humor and satire for both child and adult accounts for this, but the mark of the true classic – timelessness – underlies its continued popularity.

Here are a few recent performances: James R. Winker's adaptation "With Alice in Wonderland" a one-actor play, was performed at The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles during January and February . . . "A Groovy Alice in Wonderland" a shadow puppet show, was performed by the Dragonfly Puppet Theatre in the San Francisco area during July and August . . . Our favorite, though,

is "Toltec in Decoland & Through the Smoking Glass," an Indian version with White Cloud Hawk Xochipillillama!

An elaborate full-color brochure is being circulated by the Lewis Carroll Birthplace Trust to raise funds for the restoration and conversion of several buildings in Daresbury as a Lewis Carroll Center.

The aims of the Trust are: to create a greater public appreciation and understanding of Carroll's life and work; to provide necessary amenities for the benefit of the local community and church; and to provide a research and study facility.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Trust may write to: Mr. J. Wilcox-Baker, Secretary, Lewis Carroll Birthplace Trust,

Coombe Bank Cottage, Snatt's Road, Uckfield, E. Sussex TN22 2AN, England.

And for those interested in Popular Culture, we have received notice of the following: A porcelain bisque Alice tea party tableau, in a limited edition of 2500, produced in Italy. Price – about \$2500. For details, write to Fantasies Come True, 7408 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046 . . . "Songs From Alice," a musical cassette available at £3.50 from A&C Black, Ltd., Howard Rd., Eaton Socon, Cambs., England . . . "Alice Through the Looking Glass," a 1966 TV musical, has been released on video cassette . . . *Daffy Quaffidi, Malice in Wonderland*, a comic book at \$1.75, is available from Comics Unlimited, 6833 Amboy Road, Staten Island, NY 10309

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